

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 5, and 9.

Please amend claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-12 as set forth below.

Please add claims 13-16 as set forth below.

A complete listing of all claims in this application is set forth below.

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (currently amended) ~~The assembly of claim 1,~~ A spacer assembly for use in spinal surgeries, the assembly comprising:

a spacer formed to include (i) an upper spacer end and a lower spacer end, and (ii) a spacer side wall extending between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end, and

at least one end cap coupled to at least one of the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end, each of the at least one end caps including an inner end facing the spacer, an outer end having a serrated surface, and a cap side wall extending between the inner and outer ends and engaging the spacer side wall to provide a mechanical connection between the at least one cap and the spacer,

wherein the serrated surface includes a number of peaks and a number of valleys,

wherein when the at least one cap is connected to the spacer, the number of peaks are positioned at a vertical height either above the upper spacer end or below the lower spacer end, and

wherein the cap side wall converges from the outer end toward the inner end.

3. (currently amended) ~~The spacer assembly of claim 1,~~ A spacer assembly for use in spinal surgeries, the assembly comprising:

a spacer formed to include (i) an upper spacer end and a lower spacer end, and (ii) a spacer side wall extending between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end, and

at least one end cap coupled to at least one of the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end, each of the at least one end caps including an inner end facing the spacer, an outer end having a serrated surface, and a cap side wall extending between the inner and outer ends and engaging the spacer side wall to provide a mechanical connection between the at least one cap and the spacer,

wherein the serrated surface includes a number of peaks and a number of valleys,

wherein when the at least one cap is connected to the spacer, the number of peaks are positioned at a vertical height either above the upper spacer end or below the lower spacer end, and

wherein the inner end of the at least one end cap is positioned at a vertical height which is interposed between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end when the at least one end cap is connected to the spacer.

4. (currently amended) ~~The spacer assembly of claim 1, wherein:~~ A
spacer assembly for use in spinal surgeries, the assembly comprising:

a spacer formed to include (i) an upper spacer end and a lower spacer
end, and (ii) a spacer side wall extending between the upper spacer end and the
lower spacer end, and

at least one end cap coupled to at least one of the upper spacer end and
the lower spacer end, each of the at least one end caps including an inner end
facing the spacer, an outer end having a serrated surface, and a cap side wall
extending between the inner and outer ends and engaging the spacer side wall to
provide a mechanical connection between the at least one cap and the spacer,

wherein the serrated surface includes a number of peaks and a number of
valleys,

wherein when the at least one cap is connected to the spacer, the number
of peaks are positioned at a vertical height either above the upper spacer end or
below the lower spacer end,

wherein the upper spacer end has a number of detents defined therein,

wherein the at least one end cap further includes a number of projections,

and

wherein the number of projections are respectively positioned within the
number of detents when the at least one end cap is connected to the spacer.

Claim 5 (canceled).

6. (currently amended) ~~The spacer assembly of claim 5,~~ A spacer assembly for use in spinal surgeries, comprising:

a spacer formed to include (i) an upper spacer end and a lower spacer end, and (ii) a spacer side wall extending between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end; and

an end cap including (i) an inner end facing the spacer, (ii) an outer end having a serrated surface, and (iii) a cap side wall extending between the inner end and the outer end and engaging the spacer side wall to provide a mechanical connection between the end cap and the spacer,

wherein the outer end of the end cap having the serrated surface is positioned at a vertical height above the upper spacer end when the end cap is connected to the spacer, and

wherein the inner end of the end cap is positioned at a vertical height which is interposed between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end when the end cap is connected to the spacer.

7. (currently amended) ~~The spacer assembly of claim 5, wherein:~~ A
spacer assembly for use in spinal surgeries, comprising:

a spacer formed to include (i) an upper spacer end and a lower spacer
end, and (ii) a spacer side wall extending between the upper spacer end and the
lower spacer end; and

an end cap including (i) an inner end facing the spacer, (ii) an outer end
having a serrated surface, and (iii) a cap side wall extending between the inner
end and the outer end and engaging the spacer side wall to provide a
mechanical connection between the end cap and the spacer,

wherein the outer end of the end cap having the serrated surface is
positioned at a vertical height above the upper spacer end when the end cap is
connected to the spacer,

wherein the upper spacer end has a number of detents defined therein,
wherein the end cap further includes a number of projections, and
wherein the number of projections are respectively positioned within the
number of detents when the end cap is connected to the spacer.

8. (currently amended) The spacer assembly of claim 5 ~~6~~, wherein:
the serrated surface includes a number of peaks and a number of valleys,
and
the number of peaks are positioned at a vertical height above the upper
spacer end when the end cap is connected to the spacer.

Claim 9 (canceled).

10. (currently amended) ~~The spacer assembly of claim 9;~~ A spacer
assembly for use in spinal surgeries, comprising:
a spacer formed to include (i) an upper spacer end and a lower spacer
end, and (ii) a spacer side wall extending between the upper spacer end and the
lower spacer end; and
an end cap including (i) an inner end facing the spacer, (ii) an outer end
having a serrated surface, and (iii) a cap side wall extending between the inner
end and the outer end and engaging the spacer side wall to provide a
mechanical connection between the end cap and the spacer,
wherein the outer end of the end cap having the serrated surface is
positioned at a vertical height below the lower spacer end when the end cap is
connected to the spacer, and
wherein the inner end of the end cap is positioned at a vertical height
which is interposed between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end
when the end cap is connected to the spacer.

11. (currently amended) ~~The spacer assembly of claim 9, wherein:~~ A
spacer assembly for use in spinal surgeries, comprising:
a spacer formed to include (i) an upper spacer end and a lower spacer
end, and (ii) a spacer side wall extending between the upper spacer end and the
lower spacer end; and
an end cap including (i) an inner end facing the spacer, (ii) an outer end
having a serrated surface, and (iii) a cap side wall extending between the inner
end and the outer end and engaging the spacer side wall to provide a
mechanical connection between the end cap and the spacer,
wherein the outer end of the end cap having the serrated surface is
positioned at a vertical height below the lower spacer end when the end cap is
connected to the spacer,
wherein the lower spacer end has a number of detents defined therein,
wherein the end cap further includes a number of projections, and
wherein the number of projections are respectively positioned within the
number of detents when the end cap is connected to the spacer.

12. (currently amended) The spacer assembly of claim 9 10, wherein:
the serrated surface includes a number of peaks and a number of valleys,
and
the number of peaks are positioned at a vertical height below the lower
spacer end when the end cap is connected to the spacer.

13. (new) A spacer assembly for use in spinal surgeries, comprising:

a spacer having (i) an upper spacer end and a lower spacer end, and (ii) a spacer side wall extending between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end, and

at least one end cap including an inner end facing the spacer, an outer end having a serrated surface, and a cap side wall extending between the inner and outer ends and engaging the spacer side wall to provide a mechanical connection between the at least one cap and the spacer,

wherein the serrated surface includes a number of peaks and a number of valleys,

wherein, when the at least one cap is connected to the spacer, the number of peaks are positioned at a vertical height either above the upper spacer end or below the lower spacer end,

wherein the at least one end cap further includes at least one projection extending therefrom,

wherein, when the at least one projection is positioned in contact with the upper spacer surface end or the lower spacer surface end, said inner end of said at least one end cap is located within said spacer.

14. (new) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the cap side wall converges from the outer end toward the inner end.

15. (new) The spacer assembly of claim 13, wherein the inner end of the at least one end cap is positioned at a vertical height which is interposed between the upper spacer end and the lower spacer end when the at least one end cap is connected to the spacer.

16. (new) The spacer assembly of claim 13, wherein:
the upper spacer end has a number of detents defined therein, and
the at least one projection is positioned within one of the number of detents when the at least one end cap is connected to the spacer.